

Twenty-Four Debs Presented At Washington Debutante Ball

By DAISY CLELAND
Star Staff Writer

The debut party here most steeped in glamour and tradition took place last evening.

The eighth annual Washington Debutante Ball drew hundreds to the ornate ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel where 24 young ladies were presented to society.

The annual ball was started eight years ago because it

Picture on Page B-5

was felt, according to one of the founders, that residential Washington needed a "traditional debutante ball." Although still young in years, the traditions are just as much a part of the dance as the beauty.

The debutantes are selected by a secret committee that does the inviting a year in advance. The girls represent some of the best known residential families in the city. Some may be the daughters of an official but this is purely secondary.

The Debutantes

The debutantes of this year are Miss Sarah Abernethy, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Theodore Abernethy; Miss Daphne Achilles, daughter of United States Ambassador to Peru and Mrs. Theodore Achilles; Miss Edith Blair, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Montgomery Blair, and Miss Elizabeth Boothe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Armistead Boothe.

Also presented were Miss Ann Bradley, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bradley; Miss Katherine Carter, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Hill Carter; Miss Noel Clark, daughter of Senator and Mrs. Joseph Clark, and Miss Randall Clifford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Clifford.

Others were Miss Hope Cooke, niece of Deputy Commandant of the National War College and Mrs. Selden Chapin; Miss Harriet Ecker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ecker; Miss Frances FitzGerald, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Desmond FitzGerald, and Miss Mary Virginia Gibb, daughter of Comdr. and Mrs. Charles A. R. Gibb.

Miss Ann Houghton, daughter of Mrs. Alfred M. Houghton, was in the group, as were Miss Elise Kauffmann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Kauffmann; Miss Eliza Kellogg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Kellogg; and

Miss Prudence Lloyd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gates Lloyd.

Also making their bows were Miss Marcia McGhee, daughter of former Assistant Secretary of State and Mr. George McGhee; Miss Gail Owen, daughter of Mrs. Dudley Owen; Miss Sandra Smith, daughter of Director of the ICA and Mrs. James Hopkins Smith, jr., and Miss Margo Stratford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stratford of Chicago, and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Wyeth.

Completing the list were Miss Ann Swift, daughter of Mrs. Ernest John Swift; Miss Gillian Walker, daughter of the Director of the National Gallery of Art and Mrs. John Walker III; Miss Katherine Walker, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Allen Walker, and Miss Christine Willcox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Willcox.

Mothers Assist

The attractive group of debutantes lined up in the Chinese Room to greet the guests at 11 p.m. Their mothers alternated two at a time in the line.

All the debutantes were in flowing, long white dresses. They also wore long white gloves and carried bouquets of pink carnations and ivy.

Earlier in the evening there was a large dinner for the debutantes, their parents and members of the floor committee. This also took place at the Mayflower.

The dinner brought forth three toasts—two scheduled and one that was not.

On the traditional side was the toast given by the head of the floor committee, Mr. Bardyl Tirana. The sip of champagne followed a long memorized tribute mentioning each debutante by name in rhyme.

The next came from Mrs. Blair, chairman of the party, who paid tribute to the fathers and their imminent task of presenting their daughters in the figure. Some of the fathers took good note of these fine words later.

However, the final one was not planned but certainly is called for—one that should become a tradition.

Mr. Rudolph Kauffmann rose and drank to the mothers of the debutantes. In the case of last night, this was the "lot" who worried for days as to how their daughters would look. He said they stole the show for glamour.

The highlight of the evening was the waltz figure. At this point each father or designated escort brought forth each debutante to present her to society.

Mr. Samuel Hay Kauffmann, one of the founders of the party, took a place at the end of the ballroom, just in front of Meyer Davis orchestra to lead the figure. Assisting were Mr. Robert W. Willson and Mr. Millard West.

Bow in Spotlight

The impressive strains of the "Pilgrims March" from "Aida" sounded. Then the floor committee approached by fours and lined the ballroom.

Each debutante, on the arm of her father or escort, then came out separately in a spotlight to make her bow.

Dr. Abernethy and his daughter Sarah were a handsome couple. Dr. Carter brought forth his daughter Katherine amid applause, and Mr. Kauffmann came forth with his daughter Elise. They were the tallest and therefore the last.

The decor for the party included white doves against magnolia trees lining the ballroom. The same motif was carried out on the small tables.

Mrs. Blair, as chairman of the party, wore for the occasion a light blue gown. Pinned at her waist were red roses, and she wore rubies.

Glimpsed in the Blairs' box were Mme. Boncampagni, down from New York. She is Dr. Blair's aunt and godmother of Edith Blair.

The sponsors are allowed only 10 guests and others with Dr. and Mrs. Blair were District Commissioner and Mrs. David Karriek, Mr. and Mrs. William Blair, Mr. and Mrs. B. Lowndes Jackson (she is Dr. Blair's sister), and Mrs. Hare Lippincott, aunt of Mrs. Blair.

Also in light blue was Mrs. John Walker. Her dress was of satin and had a white panel in the front.

With the Walkers were British Ambassador and Lady Caccia, former Ambassador and Mrs. Stanley Woodward, former Director of the National Gallery of Art and Mrs. David Finley, British Minister Lord Hood, former Ambassador and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss, Mrs. Charles Wrightman, Mrs. Leslie Johnston, grandmother of the debutante, and young John Walker, brother

With the Willcoxes

The group with Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Willcox looked almost like a meeting of former presidents of the Junior League, of which Mrs. Willcox is one. Mrs. Willcox wore an emerald green chiton dress with a draped skirt.

Other former presidents there and their husbands were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wathen and the Millard Wests. Also in the group were Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sullivan, jr., Admiral and Mrs. Kenneth Hoeffel, Mrs. Charles Willcox, grandmother of the debutante, and Miss Caroline Willcox, her aunt.

The Netherlands Ambassador and Mme. van Roijen were seen with Mrs. Alfred Houghton, who was wearing a stunning powder blue dress of Italian silk fashioned with a bow on the left side with deep red flowers tucked in it.

Others in this box were Mr. and Mrs. Alexandre Cretzianu, Mr. Coleman Jennings, Mr. and Mrs. Hopewell Darneille, jr., Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Haynes and Mr. and Mrs. Woodson P. Houghton. Mr. Houghton escorted his niece in the figure.

Another mother of a debutante favoring light blue was Mrs. Rudolph Kauffmann, who looked very pretty in a ball gown of pale peau de soie.

Among Mr. and Mrs. Kauffmann's guests were Mrs. R. M. Kauffmann, grandmother of the debutante; John Michael Kauffmann, an uncle; another uncle and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Kauffmann; Mr. and Mrs. Middleton Train, Mr. and Mrs. Randall Hagner, jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Neel.

Miss Elise Kauffmann was also glimpsed with a very special partner on the dance floor—her grandfather, Mr. Hewitt Wells.

Mrs. Gates Lloyd, greatly responsible for the fabulous decorations, was there in a striking dress. It was of gold and blue brocade and with it she wore matching shoes.

Guests of the Lloyds

Among the guests with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd were Dr. and Mrs. Lauriston Hardin, jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. Wingate Lloyd (a son of the hosts), Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Greenway and Special Assistant to the President and Mrs. Gordon Gray.

Mrs. Ernest Swift was another mother wearing blue and escorting her daughter was Vice Admiral Robert M. Griffin, uncle of the debutante.

Also in the group were Mrs. Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sterrett and Mrs. Eldon Crowell.